

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 7-62 are allowed. By this amendment, claims 1-64 are pending, claims 1-5, 7-10, 12, 16-20, 22-30, 36-40, 42-52, and 57-62 are amended to improve form and claims 63 and 64 are newly added.

In the outstanding non-final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,019,961 to Addesso et al. ("Addesso"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

102 Rejection of Claims 1-6 (Addesso)

Claim 1 recites a method for implementing, in a computing environment, an association among a first data object and a second data object comprising, among other things, forming a second association fragment which comprises information relevant to accessing the second data object, wherein a first association fragment and the second association fragment cooperate to cause an association to be effectively formed between the first data object and the second data object.

On page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner states that Addesso, at column 18, lines 29-41, discloses forming a second association fragment which comprises information relevant to accessing the second data object, wherein a first association fragment and the second association fragment cooperate to cause an association to be effectively formed between the first data object and the second data object. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The cited section of Addesso discusses an association fragment being a type of diagramming fragment. According to Addesso, “[a] diagramming fragment is a small piece of a diagram representing a certain graphical action by the modeler. The fragment describes how to map this graphical action to the corresponding logical action” (Addesso, column 15, lines 22-26). Addesso describes the association fragment as a connector with an arrow at one end. A graphic object pointed to by the associative connector is associated with a graphic object at the arrow-free end of the connector (Addesso, column 18, lines 30-34). A tooler (a high level user) fills in the relationship and role in object text fields provided with the connector (Addesso, column 18, lines 34-36).

Thus, according to Addesso, the association fragment is a small piece of a diagram (a connector with an arrow at one end). The association is represented by the association fragment drawn between two graphical objects, with object text provided by the tooler. Addesso, therefore, discloses that a single association fragment causes an association to be formed between a first and a second data object. Because Addesso teaches that only a single association fragment causes an association to be formed between the first and the second data objects, Addesso does not disclose a first association fragment and a second association fragment cooperating to cause an association to be effectively formed between the first data object and the second data object, as recited in claim 1.

Because Addesso does not disclose each and every feature of claim 1, Addesso does not anticipate claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are not anticipated by Addesso, at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-5 be withdrawn.

Claim 6 recites a feature similar to the previously discussed feature of claim 1 and is not anticipated by Addesso at least for reasons similar to the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn.

Further, claim 6 recites that the first data object and the first association fragment are located in a first partition of storage, and the second data object and the second association fragment are located in a second partition of the storage. Addesso does not disclose these features.

New Claims 63 and 64

New claims 63 and 64 depend from claim 1 and are not anticipated by the cited prior art, at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

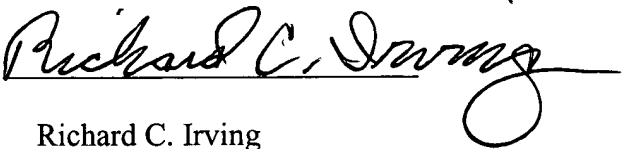
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' representative at the number indicated below if he wishes to discuss any aspect of this case.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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